

Search for Spy Microphones

We're Going to Knock Over Some U. S. Embassy Walls, Too

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The State Department, with the aid of specially trained teams of Navy seabees, is planning a wall-smashing search for hidden spy microphones in U. S. Embassies around the world.

The move was disclosed yesterday when testimony before a House Appropriations sub-committee was made public.

Department officials asked for \$1.6 million to finance the demolition of the interiors of Embassy rooms in 15 different world capitals.

SEARCH

A special mobile crew of seabees would aid Embassy security officials and "counterradio" technicians in searching for electronic eavesdropping devices under the department's new "complete demolition" security policy.

The policy was instituted last year after a network of communist "bugging" devices was discovered in the U.S. Embassy in Moscow.

State Department officials said it was the first time complete demolition — ripping out walls, ceiling and flooring — had been used to uncover such spy systems.

The discovery of the Moscow microphones led to similar checks in every U.S. Embassy behind the Iron Curtain.

G. Marvin Gentile, Deputy

Assistant Secretary of State for Security, told the sub-committee in an appearance before the panel last Feb. 19 that Embassy personnel in Warsaw were forced to tear out the interiors of 30 rooms in the new \$1.6 million building after finding a microphone network.

"We have no control over who does this construction, which electricians, what have you," Mr. Gentile said. "There would be no meaningful check we could make of the local workers from a country on who they put on the building."

After the microphone network was removed, Mr. Gentile said, a crew of seabees repaired the Embassy, finishing their work Feb. 2. A bill for an estimated \$12,000 for their work was sent to the Polish government.

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"It (the microphone network) was obviously put there by their operators," Mr. Gentile said.

He said the new security program would require about 155 Navy Seabees on call to work with Embassy security personnel. He said about 30 marines also would be needed for expanded Embassy guard programs. (UPI).

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